

BRITAIN DISAVOWS SEIZURES AT SEA.

Foodstuffs Only Are Contraband When Consigned to the Enemy's Forces.

BOWS TO THE AMERICAN VIEW.

Goods May Be Sent to Noncombatants in the Transvaal and Neutral May Ship to Delagoa Bay.

REPUBLICAN SPECIAL.

Washington, Jan. 11.—Not only has Great Britain admitted the right of the United States to trade with the neutral Portuguese possessions in South Africa, but she has officially declared the right of neutrals to sell and forward goods not contraband of war to the Transvaal for the use of the noncombatants there. This important declaration was made by the British Government in its reply handed to Ambassador Choate yesterday which he forwarded to the State Department today, which he calls "highly satisfactory."

With the recognition of this principle, the disavowal of the seizure of the American cargoes on the Mashona and Maria, and the investigation of the ownership of the cargo on board the hostilities to which the same principle will be applied, the incident is regarded by the administration as practically closed. The remaining negotiations will concern the question whether the cargoes have suffered any damage in consequence of their landing and detention. If they have, the authorities are satisfied from Ambassador Choate's dispatch that the British Government will be willing to reimburse the owners. Concerning the dispatch from London, this statement was given out by Secretary Hay this evening:

"A telegram has been received from Ambassador Choate reporting an interview had by him with the Marquis of Salisbury on the afternoon of the 10th instant, in regard to the American shipments of flour and provisions on the detained British steamers Beatrice and Mashona and the Dutch steamer Maria."

The British Declaration.
"The British position as to foodstuffs and hostile destinations is that they can only be considered contraband of war if supplied for the enemy's forces. It is not being sufficient that they are capable of being so used, but it must be shown that they were their destination at the time of seizure. This qualification virtually concedes the American contention that the goods were not subject to seizure, and practically disavows the seizures. It is not being claimed that there is any evidence of hostile destination."

"The failure of the British Government to obtain any evidence showing a hostile destination for the cargoes of the Mashona and Maria has caused it to disclaim their seizure as contraband. With respect to the Beatrice, however, the British Government states that there is a question as to the ownership of her cargo. Representatives of the firm which sold the flour comprising part of the Beatrice cargo have agreed to the State Department's contention that they have not been paid for the goods, the drafts not being collectible until delivery was made. The State Department will consider the ownership of the Beatrice cargo. Whether the cargo is owned by Americans, Portuguese or even by noncombatants in the Transvaal, the principle enunciated, will have to be applied and pay for any damage that it may suffer."

"The British Government," said an official this evening, "not only will our merchants, and the merchants of all neutral countries as well, be able to send foodstuffs and other supplies not contraband of war to Delagoa Bay, but they will be able to make shipments to the Transvaal, provided, of course, there is evidence that the supplies are not intended for the use of the Boer troops."

British Cruisers' Limits.
"British cruisers before seizing neutral cargoes, must find cause at the time of seizure to show that the goods have a hostile destination. There is no disposition on the part of the British Government to deny visitation and search by British vessels, and if there is any contraband aboard American vessels, or in American cargoes it will be liable to seizure."

"The policy enunciated by the British Government will enable the noncombatants in the Transvaal to secure all the food supplies they need, and will naturally be of great advantage to the Boer troops, as they will be relieved of the duty of providing for the thousands of persons who have been unable to harvest the crops. It is believed that the supplies they have stored in anticipation of not being able to receive provisions can be used for their own support, while neutral cargoes can be employed for feeding the noncombatants."

Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Ambassador, called at the State Department this evening, and is expected to have a conference with Secretary Hay relative to Ambassador Choate's reply.

It is said by officials that there is no similarity between the American and German incidents, the latter involving the seizure of a German mail steamer. It is expected that Great Britain will promptly make a declaration of the seizure of the Mashona and Maria, and that the United States will determine the disposition of the cargo and the vessel.

RUSSIA PRESSING BRITAIN.
Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 11.—The latest of opinions of the "Vancouver Press" is that the Russian Government is pressing Britain to receive the Russian ship, the "Mashona," which is detained at Delagoa Bay, and which is being used by the Boer forces.

GERMAN CRUISERS' ORDERS.
Berlin, Jan. 11.—It is asserted that the German cruisers, Schwaben and Condor, which were ordered to Delagoa Bay, have been instructed to proceed to Cape Town. This indicates a belief in German official circles that the contraband controversy will be amicably settled.

EXPECTS ACCEPTANCE.
London, Jan. 12.—The Standard, in an editorial upon the Government's reply to Mr. Choate and Count von Buelow, says: "We shall be much surprised if the British Government's definition of international law as applied to the carriage of foodstuffs fails to find acceptance at Washington and Berlin."

EXPECT BUNDENRATHS RELEASE.
SPECIAL BY CABLE.
Berlin, Thursday, Jan. 11.—Copyright, 1900, by James Gordon Bennett.—Surprise is expressed in political circles at the delay



THE ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS CROSSING THE MODDER RIVER. After the battle of Modder River the Boers withdrew to Magerfontein on the north side and the British troops, forded the stream, these two battalions belong to the Highland Brigade, which suffered the brunt of the battle of Magerfontein, in which the British were defeated and the advance to the relief of Kimberley was checked.

In the release of the Bundensrath, although no contraband was found.

The text of the verbal answer of England to the German Ambassador has arrived here and will be taken as a basis for future negotiations.

PURPOSELY MISLED.

London, Jan. 11.—The theory is now advanced that the seizure of the German mail steamers Beatrice and General, since released, were made on purposely misleading information supplied to British agents, the design being to entrap Great Britain and Germany in a quarrel.

TO PUSH ORGANIZATION.

United Mine Workers Will Enter the Western Fields.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 11.—President Mitchell of the United Mine Workers said today the organization would take up the work of organization immediately after the close of the year.

National Board Member James Boston, from Springfield, Ill., says that 80 per cent of the coal mined in Missouri is union coal.

Another 20 per cent is non-union. In Kansas, outside of stripped coal, 90 per cent is union coal, while the other 10 per cent is being paid for at union rates. He says the great southwestern strike has been a success in these respects.

He further says that the strike in Indiana Territory.

TANNER SCORES CULLOM.

Announces That He Will Fight His Return to the Senate.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 11.—The Tribune tomorrow will print a long interview with Governor Tanner, in which the Governor makes a bitter personal attack upon Senator Shelby M. Cullom. Governor Tanner declares at the outset that he is not a candidate for the Senate, and that he is not in business exclusively for his health. He proposes to publish in capital letters just where subscriptions may be sent.

He says that if you want to get in positively on the ground floor you may get in for a time, but you will be out of the water, and he is expected to sink in the water. He says that the system is that the party in power will keep it open for a year or two, and then it will be closed. He says that the party in power will keep it open for a year or two, and then it will be closed.

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PROMOTES HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

International Society to Find Out What Is Wrong With the World.

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